

The Green Street Messenger



Green Street Monthly Meeting of Friends
45 West School House Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19144
267-285-0553
secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org

West Philadelphia Preparative Friends Meeting
4718 Windsor Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19143

First Day Meeting for Worship	10:30 AM
First Day School	10:30–11:15 AM
First Day Meeting for Worship at West Phila. Mtg.	10:30 AM
Wednesday morning Meeting for Worship	8:30–9:00 AM with GSFS

April 2019

Sunday, 4th	9:30 AM	Breakfast - Mychelle J & Margie F.
	Rise of Meeting	Hospitality - Peggy Walters, Russ & Vicki
Sunday, 14th	9:15 AM	Second Sunday Worship & Ministry
	Rise of Meeting	Hospitality - Kenyatta & Eppchez
Sunday, 21st	Rise of Meeting 12:30 PM	Lunch - Hospitality Committee Monthly Meeting for Business
Sunday, 28th	9:15 AM	Friendly Bible Study
	Rise of Meeting	Hospitality - Chihero & Sophie

Draft Minutes of Monthly Meeting for Business Held Third Month 17, 2019

At Green Street Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at 45 West School House Lane, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on Third Month 17, 2019:

Business Meeting convened at 12:45 pm in prayerful silence.

19-03-01 JoAnn Seaver, Clerk, reviewed the agenda and Friends approved.

19-03-02 Nominating

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Clerk, brought forward the following names for final approval after a second reading:

For a one year term as Clerk of the Meeting, JoAnn Seaver.

For a three year term as Treasurer, Jerry Williams.

For a three year term as a member of the Librarian team, Mary Noland.

For another three year term as Clerk of Budget Committee, Russ Endo.

For a second three year term as Clerk of Care and Counsel, Gabe Ehri.

For three year terms on Hospitality, Peggy Worthington (second term and resigning as Clerk) and Mary Noland (first term).

For a three year term on Worship and Ministry, Michelle Schmitt.

For one year terms as Trustees, Russell Endo (Clerk), David LaFontaine (Asst. Clerk), Sharon Mullally (Secretary), Traci Hjelt Sullivan (Treasurer), Sandra Rodriguez, Gabrreell James, and Dan McDevitt.

Friends approved these nominations.

Walter also brought forward the following names for a first reading:

For a three year term on Worship and Ministry, Lola Georg.

As Clerk of Worship and Ministry, Lori Sinitzky.

For a first reading for a new term continuing in the same position:

For one year terms as members of the Recording Team, Anthony Digiovani, Chris Mohr, and Walter Hjelt Sullivan.

For another three year term on Care and Counsel, Jim Hood.

For another three year term on Property Committee, Paul Jablonsky.

For a one year term continuing on Budget Committee, David La Fontaine.

These names will lie over for a month. Friends with concerns about any of these nominations should speak privately with members of the Nominating Committee before the business meeting in April.

Upon the recommendation of the Greene Street Friends School Governance Committee and with the approval of the Green Street Nominating Committee, Walter brought forward for a first reading names of new and continuing members for the Greene Street School Board.

For a first term on the Board, members of Green Street Meeting, Tracey Smith and Valerie Anderson, and GSFS parent Michael Landsburg. A bio of Mr. Landsburg was read.

Continuing on the Board for a second term, Sarah Clarke, Shayna Bayard, Anthony DiGiovanni, and Christopher Mohr.

Continuing on the Board for a third term, Koof Kalkstein and Russ Endo.

Upon approval of these names next month, the Greene Street School Board will be at 19 members, with 10 Quakers/9 non-Quakers, 9 female/10 male, 9 persons of color/10 white, and 5 current parents/13 non-parents.

19-03-03 Care and Counsel

Gabe Ehri, Clerk, asked the Meeting to give final approval of the membership request of Kenyatta James after a second reading. Friends were overjoyed. Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Victoria Greene, and Gabe Erhi agreed to serve on the welcoming committee. Gabe agreed to contact Kenyatta to share this good news and to facilitate planning of a welcoming party.

Gabe reported on the process of a clearness committee comprising himself and Lola Georg working with Jerry Williams in response to his letter requesting membership with Green Street Meeting. The committee strongly endorses Jerry's request. Friends look forward to revisiting this item next month.

Gabe brought forward the draft of a minute for Victoria Greene who hopes to travel to West Africa as part of a group, Exploring African American History in Ghana, organized by Friend Vanessa Julye. A clearness committee made up of Lola Georg, Sharon Mullally, Tracey Smith, and Anthony DiGiovanni met with Victoria and heartily endorsed her planned travel. They have assisted Victoria in applying for grant funds and have asked Care and Counsel to support her financially as well. Victoria shared her thoughts about this trip, its importance in her life as an African American woman, and her wish to see and experience the truth about African history and culture and to overcome the lies she has been told about Africa since her childhood.

A traveling minute from the host meeting is a part of the process for this trip. Gabe shared the draft text of the minute that the clearness committee helped to write:

Dear Friends,

We ask that you welcome our member Victoria Greene. Victoria is traveling to Ghana for the purposes of exploring African history, before colonization and after. Victoria is the Founder and Executive Director of E.M.I.R. (Every Murder Is Real) Healing Center. She founded the center over 20 years ago, after the murder of her only son, Emir Greene.

Over the last two decades, Victoria and EMIR Healing Center have helped thousands of families in Philadelphia, PA, USA, heal from the effects of homicide and gun violence.

Victoria's work has led her to understand post-traumatic stress disorder, and its linkages to racism and post-traumatic slave syndrome. Victoria wants to understand, through her own first-hand experience, the consequences and intergenerational trauma of enslaved peoples.

Please welcome Victoria and hold her in your hearts and in prayer. We, the members of Green Street Friends Meeting in Philadelphia, hold her in light and love as she faithfully follows where the spirit leads her.

In faith and with love, JoAnn Seaver, Clerk, Green Street Friends Meeting

Friends approved the minute with gratitude and appreciation.

Gabe shared the joy that C&C experienced through supporting Victoria in this way and encouraged other members of the Meeting to reach out to the Committee if they would like to explore similar leadings.

19-03-04 Support for an all candidate meeting in Germantown

JoAnn Seaver read a letter from the Chew and Belfield Neighbors Club describing an event to help Germantown community members meet and engage a broad spectrum of candidates running for office in the upcoming Philadelphia primaries. The event will be held on April 24, 2019, at the Wissahickon Charter School's Awbury Campus. The request includes naming one of our members to serve on a panel that will support the event. Victoria Greene agreed to serve as our representative, and Geniver Montalvo agreed to serve as an alternate. Friends agreed to co-sponsor the event and to contribute \$50 from the Meeting's outreach budget.

19-03-05 Support for Sanctuary Fundraising Dinners

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, reporting.

A working group called together by Cati Coe and consisting of Margie Felton, Margaret Wood, Afroza Hossain, Walter Hjelt Sullivan, and a contact from the First United Methodist Church of Germantown has been meeting for a few months to explore ways that members of the meeting can get actively involved in supporting families seeking sanctuary in our area.

While the group is interested in more direct political action at some point in the future, the suggested first steps are relationship building with other faith communities in Germantown already involved in sanctuary support and with activist groups led by affected community members.

To that end, the group proposes that the Meeting hold two fundraising dinners over the next four months. The first is planned for Friday, April 12, and will raise money for the three families currently living in sanctuary in Germantown, two under the care of FUMCOG and one under the care of First Mennonite Church of Germantown. The planning group hopes to attract 50-75 participants from Philadelphia Quarter Quakers, Greene Street Friends School, and our own friends and neighbors. The working group members are prepared to undertake logistics, publicity, shopping, and cooking.

The projected budget for the event is \$350, enough to feed 100 people. Leftovers

will be donated to the families for their personal use. A donation for the dinner of \$25 will be requested. Additional donations in support of the families will be solicited at the dinner itself. Speakers from both churches will tell about their experience getting involved in Sanctuary and how others can get involved. The group plans a second dinner to be held in late May or early June which will support the work of Juntos, a community-led, Latinx immigrant organization in South Philadelphia fighting for their human rights as workers, parents, youth, and immigrants

The members of the working group requested financial support for these two events from the Meeting, so that all funds raised could go to the families.

Friends agreed to support the dinners and to cover the costs of the dinners.

19-03-06 Green Street and Undoing Racism,
Sharon Mullally reporting for herself and Chris Mohr.

Sharon shared a list of 11 possible actions we could take related to our work of addressing racism in the Meeting that came out of a discussion on Sunday morning, March 10, exploring the Friends General Conference (FGC) institutional assessment and its application for Green Street Meeting. Items on the list were:

- Ask a query that addresses racism at every committee/business meeting.
- Develop and implement a racial harassment policy
- Learn about systemic racism and structural racism
- Assign a buddy or mentor for newcomers
- Develop a communications strategy that amplifies the voices of people of color and young adults
- Make sure people of color are included in all committees
- Conduct a review of policies and procedures looking for unintended consequences of racism
- Nominate friends of color to leadership positions
- Develop a fund to help people of color travel
- Look at the budget and how it aligns with our values
- Draw on our Quaker spirituality as a source of strength.

The group intends to use our 2nd Sunday adult education time to continue working with these specific recommendations. They would welcome shared leadership of these sessions by other groups in the Meeting with a similar focus.

The group brought forward one specific recommendation – that the Meeting regularly ask ourselves the query, “How does this decision support Green Street Meeting in its goal to transform into an actively anti-racist faith community?” This could happen at the start of Business Meeting every month and at the start of committee meetings as well.

Friends united with the suggestion that the Meeting take on the proposed query and empowered the working group to draft a letter to be shared with Meeting

committee clerks.

Friends expressed strong support of this initiative and for a number of the items listed.

Friends added some other suggestions:

- Write queries related to our work on racism for ourselves and read them in Meeting for Worship each month along with those that we read from Faith and Practice.
- Seek ways to consciously assess how we are doing on this shared work.

Friends look forward to the fruits of our continued labors.

19-03-07 Request from Philadelphia Quarter's Representative Meeting

Jerry Williams reporting.

PQM representatives met on March 12th. Significant interest was expressed about the Green Street Meeting initiative to explore the FGC institutional assessment. The Quarter asked to be kept informed about this work because other Monthly Meetings may be interested in initiating similar activities of their own.

In order to keep the meeting informed about Quarterly Meeting affairs, Jerry agreed to post the minutes from Quarterly Meeting on our website.

The Quarterly Meeting asks us to forward to their staff news of any open Meeting events that could be included in their newsletter.

Green Street was asked if we would host Quarterly Meeting sessions on January 26, 2020. Friends approved.

19-03-08 Kitchen and Meeting House Use Working Group

Gabbreell James reported on the work of the group in outlining policies for Meeting House rentals.

The working group includes Chis Mohr, Margie Felton, Jerry Williams, Sandra Rodriguez, and Maani Waldor as a rep from the School. They work closely with Ashanta Washington, our Meeting Secretary.

The group has identified four sections of the Meeting that are available for rental: The Kitchen, the Dining Room, the Meeting Room, the Social Room. Individuals could also reserve use of the grounds outside. For each space, a set of conditions has been spelled out. For example, no food is to be used in the Meeting or Social Room. All outside guests would have indoor access for the use of bathrooms.

The group is also working on a draft schedule of rental use fees, which Gabbreell shared.

Gabbreell asked whether we were comfortable with using a sliding scale fee schedule

for informal community organizations sponsored by members of the Meeting. Friends expressed a strong interest in making the space affordable to local Germantown community members.

Programs approved by the Meeting or hosted by a committee or working group of the Meeting are not required to pay for use of the Meeting space. Programs officially scheduled by the School would be defined as programs hosted by the Meeting.

Friends had some suggestions about how the document could be written more clearly.

Friends were concerned about who will administer the rental function of the Meeting going forward. The working group suggested that when these policies are in place the Meeting may need to hire a person to administer these functions. Friends agreed that this is a major issue that needs significant attention in the future. Ashanta expressed a willingness to see by experience whether the level of Meeting rental usage required hiring an outside person or could be covered by the Meeting Secretary.

It was clear that there is much work still to do to finalize the policies and procedures for Meeting House usage. Friends expressed deep gratitude for the work of the Meeting House Use Working Group. They will report again to the Business Meeting in April.

19-03-09 These minutes were approved.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm, agreeing to meet again at the appointed time on Fourth Month 21, 2019.

JoAnn Seaver, Clerk

Walter Hjelt Sullivan, Recording Clerk

Attendees: Bob Dockhorn, Gabriel Ehri, Gabbreell James, Geniver Montalvo, Sharon Mullally, Charles Quest, Lola Georg, Viv Hawkins, Marille Thomas, Jerry Williams, Victoria Greene, Ashanta Washington, Margaret J. Walters, Bill Van Stone.

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Our Meetinghouse Renewal Campaign

Hands-on fundraising to renew our meetinghouse began in the Spring of 2018 and the work continues today. Our historic meetinghouse was built in 1876, with additions in 1877, 1901, and 1917. Despite ongoing stewardship, it is time to renew the life of this home of ours.

This hundred-year renewal is making us all feel good and we hope you will share that good feeling for being part of it. The old kitchen has been transformed. We can picture ourselves communally preparing our coffee hours, lunches and dinners with readily available equipment with lots of space bordered by gleaming walls and shelves. There are working areas not only for adults but for our children. Overhead, a smooth ceiling and recessed lights cover necessary pipes and rewiring.

We picture ourselves in the dining room, at last made accessible to all, surrounded by cheerful colors made brighter with new light fixtures for energy efficient lights and ingenious window treatment. And, a dream come true, we are able to hear each other since acoustic panels are part of the scheme.

We marvel at the repurposing and transformation of neglected spaces to create venting for the stove, separate storage rooms for the meeting and for the school, a cleanable floor extending the new colors of the dining room into formerly dark places, the latest in storage units reclaiming under stairs space.

Green Street Friends Meeting has at its heart being warmly welcoming. Now, our presentation matches our practice – thanks to F(f)riends like you.

Our dreams of renewal have been given form by the work of our Property Committee and our architect, Larry McEwen. Let us walk you through all that is planned.

Our aim is to present our meetinghouse as an open place for worship, welcome, and service. While the meeting is able to use some of its reserves—the legacy of generations past—to contribute substantially to the \$825,000 total cost of the project, our meeting community today has committed to raising \$225,000 in a special campaign. The meeting asks you to consider what resources you might share and asks for your gift.

There are several ways that you can contribute directly to Green Street Monthly Meeting's fundraiser to bring us to our goal beyond what our Trustees have allocated. Donations in any amount will assist Green Street Meeting. What matters most is that our meeting's Friends consider personally significant contributions to this once-in-a-generation opportunity to reinvigorate our community's physical space.

Our website contains a link for making donations, and the fundraiser brochure and pledge card are available in the office. To receive a copy, please contact our meetinghouse secretary, Ashanta Washington secretary@greenstreetfriendsmeeting.org or call (267) 285-0553. The pledge card shows you several options for making a gift. For more information, or to make your recurring or one-time gift contact joann.seaver@verizon.net.

The good uses of Green Street's meetinghouse are many and cover generations—generations of members and attenders and their families, and generations of children in Greene Street Friends School who fill the dining room every school day and the meeting room on Wednesdays. The school uses the meetinghouse for occasions such as parent dinners, school trustee meetings and Martin Luther King Days of Service. The meetinghouse has held weddings—welcoming same sex marriages since the 90's, memorial services, workshops, committee meetings, coffee hours that last well into the afternoon, conferences, Monthly Meetings for Worship for Business, and a free series of Documentaries and Discussion for all-comers. It has been the spiritual home of our membership, creating a holy space for worship, searching, insight and support. It has helped us

build a warm and vital community that is enlivened by our outreach into our Germantown community.

No gift is too small! Please join us in making the meetinghouse fundraiser a success.

Save The Date:

April 28, 2019 will be our Circles of Care lunch, sponsored by Care & Counsel Committee.

Meeting for worship is at 10:30. All are welcome